

REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97, this statement is being filed:

- (1) within three (3) months of the Filing Date or **before the mailing date of the First Office Action** on the merits; or
- (2) within three months of the mailing date of the PCT International Search Report; or
- (3) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance**, and the requisite Certification or fee under Rule 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein; or
- (4) after the mailing date of a **Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance** but before the payment of the **Issue Fee**, and the requisite Certification, petition, and petition fee are included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the documents shown on the attached form(s) PTO-1449 be made of record in this application. Copies of these documents (CHECK ONE):

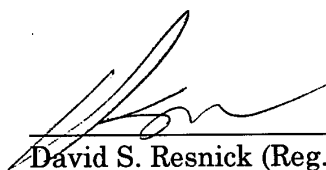
- which were not previously disclosed are enclosed herewith; or
- have been cited in the parent application, and are thus not being resubmitted herein.

Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.

FEE AUTHORIZATION

Should any fees associated with the submission be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the missing fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0850. Any overpayments should be credited to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: December 17, 2003

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